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**CONTACT:** Nikki Boone (302) 672-6857

For Immediate Release

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Delawareans Get Free Day to Visit the First State's Tourism Attractions**

*"Free to the First State" Celebrates National Tourism Week*

**Dover** (May 7, 2007) – Visitor attractions in Delaware will open their doors, free of charge to state residents, on Saturday, May 19, 2007, when the popular "Free to the First State" program returns to celebrate National Tourism Week.

The 24th Annual National Tourism Week, scheduled May 12-20, 2007, is commemorated by states, cities and organizations across the nation. "Free to the First State" encourages residents to explore the museums, state parks and other visitor attractions in their own state every year in Delaware. This year, 48 attractions are participating in the program – a record since it began in 1999.

"Delaware offers so many attractions and family fun events for all of our residents and visitors to enjoy that I encourage everyone to take advantage of this special opportunity," said Governor Ruth Ann Minner. "This is truly a special day for all Delawareans to experience the spectacular sights and venues that make the First State a great place to live and visit."

For free admission to the participating tourism attractions, Delaware residents only need to show proof of residency, such as a driver's license, student ID or a military ID. Fees for tours or special exhibits may apply at some attractions.

"On Saturday, May 19, residents will be offered a fun and free opportunity to check out what attracts more than 8 million visitors to our state each year," said Director of the Delaware Tourism Office Tim Morgan. "'Free to the First State' is an excellent opportunity for our residents to discover our state's many inherent natural treasures, outdoor activities and outstanding attractions."

The "Free to the First State" campaign is sponsored by the Delaware Tourism Office, the Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Kent County Convention and

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Visitors Bureau, and Southern Delaware Tourism. For more information, go to [www.visitdelaware.com](http://www.visitdelaware.com).

Participating attractions include:

In New Castle County: Buena Vista, Delaware Art Museum, Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Delaware History Museum, Delaware Toy & Minature Museum, Delaware Sports Museum & Hall of Fame, Greenbank Mill & Philips Farm, Hagley Museum and Library, Hale-Byrnes House, Historic Houses of Odessa, Iron Hill Museum, New Castle court House Museum, Old Swedes Church & Hendrickson House Museum, Port Penn Interpretive Center, Rockwood Museum, Winterthur Museum & Country Estate.

In Kent County: Abbott's Mill Nature Center, Air Mobility Command Center, Biggs Museum of American Art, Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware Agricultural Museum & Village, Delaware Archaeology Museum, Delaware Public Archives, Delaware State Police Museum, Delaware Agricultural Museum, Delaware Archaeology Museum, Delaware Public Archives, Delaware State Visitor Center, Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, The First State Heritage Park at Dover, John Dickinson Plantation, Johnson Victrola Museum, Monster Racing Excitement, Museum of Small Town Life, Parson Thorne Museum.

In Sussex County: DiscoverSea Shipwreck Museum, Elsie Williams Doll Collection, Fenwick Island Lighthouse, Georgetown Train Station Museum, Governor Ross Mansion, Lewes Historical Society Complex, Milford Museum, Nanticoke Indian Museum, Nassau Valley Vineyards, Nutter Marvel Carriage Museum, Old Court House in Georgetown, Overfalls Lightship Museum, Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Seaford Museum, Treasures of the Sea Exhibit, and Zwaanendael Museum.

The Delaware Tourism Office, 99 Kings Highway in Dover, Del., a division of the Delaware Economic Development Office, promotes tourism and economic growth in Delaware. For more information, visit [www.visitdelaware.com](http://www.visitdelaware.com).

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